

April 11, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Werbe Dam Sonoma County

On January 22, 2002 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Tom Atterbury of Atterbury & Associates, on behalf of Mr. Robert Werbe, requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the state (wetlands) and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

As proposed, the project will impact approximately 0.40 acre of an unnamed creek which drains into Dry Creek. The creek bank will be graded to a ratio of 3:1 and a dam will be built in order to accommodate the construction of a reservoir that the owner will use for irrigation. In order to create the reservoir, 2500 cubic yards of earth will be dredged from the creek and then used to make the dam and slopes of the reservoir. The reservoir is proposed to hold up to 10 feet of water, with a rock-lined spillway to allow excess water to continue flowing down the creek.

No special status species are known to exist in the project area. However, the creek in question is a tributary to Dry Creek, which is known to have listed salmonid species. Construction is proposed to take place during the summer months of 2002; this will help avoid erosion problems and other water quality impacts that would be more prevalent during the winter months. As proposed, all graded areas will be replanted and covered with straw, and fiber rolls will be properly installed on all slopes.

The project will require a 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game, a Grading Permit from Sonoma County, a Small Domestic Use Appropriation Permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board, and CEQA certification.

At this time the Regional Water Quality Control Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Certification Permit. In addition, the Regional Water Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by email at hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, or send comments to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.